

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02  
ACDA-07 AID-05 SCA-01 OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /116 W  
-----122799 052114Z /63

P R 051848Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 86  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 6701

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, DPIP, MILI, DJ, ET, SO  
SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR ETHIOPIAN REFUGEE INFLUX TO DJIBOUTI

REF: A) DJIBOUTI 265; B) STATE 182969 (NOTAL)

1. MISSION HAS OBTAINED COPY OF CUENOD'S INITIAL OUTLINE  
REPORT ON REFUGEES FROM ETHIOPIA IN DJIBOUTI, WHICH HE  
INTENDS TO AMPLIFY IN COURSE OF COMING WEEK. HOWEVER,  
ESSENTIAL POINTS SEEM COVERED IN THIS DOCUMENT WHICH IS  
SUMMARIZED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: NUMBERS AND LOCATION OF REFUGEES  
IN DJIBOUTI IN FOUR FOLLOWING GROUPS:

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A. PEOPLE OF ISSA ETHNIC ORIGIN FROM DOZEN VILLAGES  
ALONG RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN BORDER AND DIRE DAWA. APPROXI-  
MATELY 3,000 OF WHOM 2,000 ARE IN DIKHIL AND 1,000 IN  
ALI SABIEH, 120 KMS AND 80 KMS FROM DJIBOUTI RESPECTIVELY.  
ALL ARE RECENT ARRIVALS AND MORE CURRENTLY CROSSING BORDER  
FROM THAT SECTOR DAILY. TEMPORARILY HOUSED IN SCHOOLS,  
WITH DAILY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF RECEIVING REFUGEES AND ORGANIZING RELIEF OPERATION. SUPERVISING IS CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN DJIBOUTI, CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

B. AFAR ETHNICS, WHO ARRIVED MOSTLY IN 1975 AND SOME OF WHOM ARE FOLLOWERS OF SULTAN ALI MARAH. ALL LIVING IN DJIBOUTI, ESTIMATED AT 500. LOOKED AFTER BY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE. ACCOMMODATED IN PRIVATELY OWNED BUILDINGS OR TEMPORARY SHELTERS THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED MOSTLY FROM CARDBOARD. RECEIVING LIMITED FOOD ASSISTANCE.

C. ERITREAN ETHNICS, SOME OF WHOM ARRIVED IN 1975 AND TEMPORARILY ACCOMMODATED IN DIKHIL, WHILE REMAINDER ARE RECENT ARRIVALS. ALL NOW LIVING IN DJIBOUTI, ESTIMATED AT 300. NOT REPEAT NOT RECEIVING OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE, AND SOME LIVING IN MISERABLE CONDITIONS.

D. OTHER REFUGEES FROM ETHIOPIA, COMPOSED OF INTELLECTUALS, MAINLY STUDENTS, FROM ADDIS ABABA. ESTIMATED NUMBER, 200. HIDING IN DJIBOUTI AND FACING MANY DIFFICULTIES.

### 3. SOLUTIONS:

A. FOR GROUP DESCRIBED PARA 2A, DJIBOUTI AUTHORITIES SUGGEST CONTINUATION OF RELIEF PHASE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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OPERATION TO END OF 1977, FOLLOWED BY LAND SETTLEMENT PROJECT IN 1978. RELIEF PHASE CONSISTS OF PROVISION OF FOOD, TENTS, CLOTH MATERIAL, BLANKETS, MATS AND KITCHEN UTENSILS, AND TRANSPORT.

(1) TENTATIVE BUDGET IS (U.S. DOLLARS):

|                                                 |           |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| FOOD FOR 3,000 PEOPLE FOR FIVE MONTHS:          | \$360,000 |
| 500 TENTS (CIF DJIBOUTI)                        | 120,000   |
| CLOTH, BLANKETS, MATS, KITCHEN UTENSILS         |           |
| AT THE RATE OF \$11 PER FAMILY FOR 900 FAMILIES | 10,000    |
| TRANSPORT: 1 TRUCK AND 2 JEEPS                  | 35,000    |
| SUBTOTAL:                                       | 525,000   |
| CONTINGENCY RESERVE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT         | 55,000    |
| TOTAL:                                          | \$580,000 |

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 6701

THIS TENTATIVE BUDGET IS BASED ON LOCAL PRICES AND CHANGES  
MAY HAVE TO BE MADE AS A RESULT OF A MORE DETAILED STUDY.

(2) THE DAILY FOOD RATION FOR ONE PERSON IS COMPOSED  
AS FOLLOWS:

MEAT - 20 GR.  
RICE - 200GR  
OIL - 100 GR  
TOMATO PRESERVE - 1 SMALL TIN PER 10 PERSONS  
SALT - 10 GR  
DOURA - 100GR.  
DATES - 50 GR.  
POWDERED MILK - 100 GR.  
TEA - 10 GR.  
SUGAR - 50 GR.  
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(3) ACCORDING TO DJIBOUTI PRICES, ABOVE DAILY  
RATION WOULD COST \$40,000 PER MONTH FOR 3,000 REFUGEES  
LIVING IN DIKHIL AND ALI SABIEH. IN ADDITION, \$2743  
ALLOTTED MONTHLY TO PROVIDE FOUR PIECES OF SOAP EPR PERSON.

B. FOR GROUP DESCRIBED PARA 2D ABOVE (STUDENTS AND

THOSE HAVING QUALIFICATIONS) PLACEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE DJIBOUTI, PREFERABLY IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES. NO ESTIMATE MADE OF THIS RESETTLEMENT OPERATION INVOLVING SOME 200 PERSONS.

C. GROUPS DESCRIBED UNDER PARA 2 B AND 2C ARE PARTLY INTEGRATED IN DJIBOUTI. LIVING CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY HOUSING AND SANITATION SHOULD BE IMPROVED. THEY SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH FACILITIES AND SCHOOLS. LIMITED FEEDING PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS ALSO REQUIRED. NO COSTING YET MADE FOR THESE PROPOSALS.

4. THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO NATIONAL COMMITTEES DEALING WITH ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES, ONE FOR THOSE OF ISSA ORIGIN AND OTHER FOR AFARS. DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT PLANNING TO MERGE THESE INTO ONE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES UNDER ITS OWN SECRETARIAT.

5. IN ADDITION TO ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DJIBOUTI, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT EXTERNAL AID WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM BILATERAL, MULTILATERAL AND PRIVATE SOURCES. OTHER UN SYSTEM MEMBERS WILL BE CONTACTED IN ORDER TO PROMOTE INTEGRATED UN APPROACH. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE COULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO UN PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY FOR SECOND PHASE OF LAND SETTLEMENT. PARTICIPATION OF NGO'S, PARTICULARLY IN RELIEF PHASE FOR ISSAS AND IN FINDING  
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SOLUTIONS FOR INTELLECTUALS WOULD REPRESENT VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION. END SUMMARY

6. IN CONVERSATION WITH MISOFF, CUENOD STATED THAT 1978 RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM REMOVED FROM FRONTIER WOULD BE CENTERED ON THE PLAIN DU PETIT BAHA (PHON), AND WOULD BE DESIGNED TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY AMONG THE ISSAS. THIS LAND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM WILL BE INCLUDED IN UNHCR'S 1978 BUDGET PRESENTATION AT THE NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. FOR THE SHORT TERM, CUENOD STATED, UNHCR INTENDED TO DRAW DOWN FROM ITS EMERGENCY FUND ALLOCATION, UNLESS ADEQUATE EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS WERE FORTHCOMING FROM TRADITIONAL DONORS, SUCH AS THE SWEDES AND UNITED STATES.

7. QUESTIONED ON FORWARD PLANNING FOR MASSIVE INFLUX, CUENOD WAS NON-COMMITTAL. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS PROSPECT HAS NOT YET BEEN FOCUSED UPON, BEYOND THOUGHTS PROPORTIONAL INCREASES TO PLANNED PROGRAM AS NUMBERS MOUNT.  
VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** SREF, PDIP, MILI, DJ, ET, SO, UNHCR  
**To:** STATE DJIBOUTI  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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